

CYO Purchases Building for Teen Center¹⁹⁷³

The Terre Haute Deanery of the Catholic Youth Organization announced Tuesday the purchase of the building at 1117 Wabash Ave., for use as its regional office and a teen center for the community. This action culminates efforts begun last November to acquire a permanent location for the organization where a broader range of activities could be offered to young people.

In conjunction with the purchase of this building, Father John O'Brien, Regional Executive Director, announced that the second annual fund drive will be launched Thursday.

"Unfortunately, last year's drive fell short of expectations, causing us to alter our plans," said Father O'Brien. "We had hoped to raise \$15,000 to cover our operating expenses and our building fund. We received around \$12,000—most of which was marked for the building fund."

He went on to say, "I don't think that our contributors realized that we need about \$7,000 a year to operate on our present budget, and that is a very small amount for an organization our size. However, we were happy to accept the donations and placed them in a special building fund that we took the money to purchase this building."

The building, which last housed the Terre Haute Furnace Company, was purchased from Mrs. Sadie T. Neukom through the Indiana State Bank for the sum of \$9,000. The firm of John A. Curry and Associates has prepared plans for the renovation of the building.

"We like this location," said O'Brien. "It is centrally located, has good parking facilities in the area, and is structurally sound. It offers a number of possibilities for remodeling, all of which appeal to our kids. This isn't an old building to them — it has character, and they like that. Too many new buildings are coldly functional and sterile. The kids like the balcony with its carved railing and the pressed metal panel ceiling and the hanging light fixtures. It's a different era for them."

The Junior CYO organization for the deanery consists of young men and women from ages 14-19, who elect their own officers and run their own activities with the assistance of adult advisors. The organization is open to all young people between these ages, regardless of religion. The only requirement is the \$1 membership fee which goes to the local unit to which a student applies.

With regard to membership, O'Brien said, "At this time, plans call for restricting the use of the building to persons with membership cards and their guests, except for functions at which admission will be charged. This is really the only way to regulate conduct at the center. If a member breaks the rules, we will just have to take away his membership card."

To aid the Executive Director with the needed adult supervision, a Board of Directors is appointed by his Excellency George J. Biskup, Archbishop of Indianapolis, from recommendation of Father O'Brien. The current president of the board is Mr. Louis Savage of RR 2, Clinton, who was recently re-elected to his third term. The vice-president is Mr. George Knezevich, Jr., of 1536 Woodley Ave. One of the primary functions of the Board is the raising of funds.

"The board and I feel that a letter campaign best suits our organization," said O'Brien. "Primarily, it is economical, and we are very careful with the money entrusted to us for our kids. Secondly, we feel that a personal letter to our friends says the things that we want to say, and if we make our intentions understood, these people are kind enough to send us a contribution. We don't try to make people feel obligated to give to us like some fund-raisers attempt to do. We just ask that if people agree with our approach, they give us some money for helping the kids. And I might add, we treat this money like a sacred trust for our youngsters."

"If I have one hope," said O'Brien, "It is that we can continue to operate. If young people who are looking for something will come to us and give us a fair trial, they may find what they are seeking. If adults who are preaching juvenile decency and prevention of crime, would give us the money to operate a program that is big enough to reach youngsters on the fringe of trouble, I think that we could salvage a lot of potentially-useful young people. The hard, cold reality of the situation is that it will take money to continue, and we have to go to the public and ask for it. We can only hope that the public will respond generously." Donations can be sent to CYO, P.O. Box 3123, Terre Haute, 47803.

Community Affairs File

Dedication Launches CYO Observance

Community Affairs File
ASSOC. (W.V.)
NOV 5 1973
A new building for the Junior Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) was dedicated Sunday evening with Bill Kuntz, CYO director for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis as the guest speaker.

The dedication begins a week-long program of activities to acquaint both the adults and youth of the area with the goals and purpose of the CYO.

The new building, located at 1117 Wabash Ave., includes three offices, a huge activity room and an upper balcony level. At present, equipment for pool and ping pong are available and there are other game and refreshment machines.

In addition to Kuntz, other guests at the dedication included Vigo juvenile Referee Michael Kearns, Vigo County Circuit Court Judge Joseph Anderson and Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce President Patrick O'Leary.

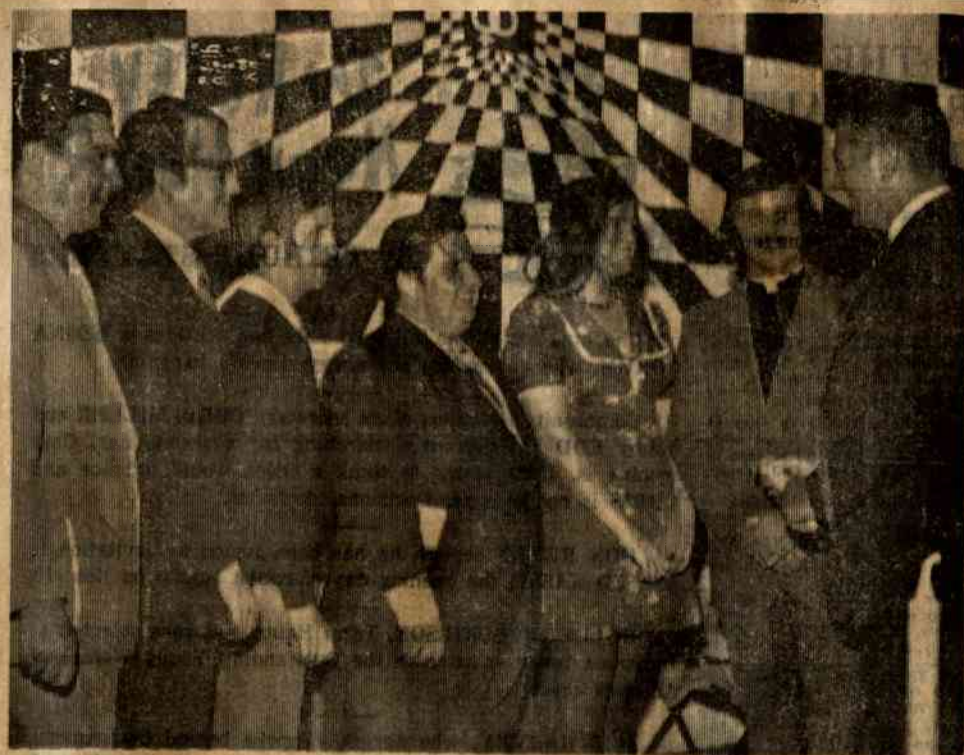
Robert Rouse, representing Congressman John Myers, presented the building with a flag that had flown over Washington, D.C.

During the ceremonies, Father Mike CYO Deanery director and associate pastor at St. Patrick's, outlined his goals for the building.

Father Mike reiterated what he had stated earlier that "The building is not half as important as the people who will be in it or as the services that can now be offered."

Calling the building "A Place For Youth," Father Mike has

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CYO BUILDING DEDICATION—Ceremonies Sunday evening signified the official opening of the new building for the Catholic Youth Organization, 1117 Wabash Ave. An entire week filled with activities including a membership drive and several functions at the building has been planned. Pictured are Robert Rouse, aide to Congressman John Myers; Pat O'Leary, president of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce; Vigo Juvenile Referee Michael Kearns; Lou Savage; Julie Burns, CYO president; Father Mike, CYO director for the Terre Haute Deanery, and William Kuntz, CWO director of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. House of Photography Photo.

Dedication

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stressed that the building should be used to serve the needs of all teen-agers no matter what their religion.

Among the several diversified programs scheduled for the CYO facility are a Challenge '75 discussion series, rap sessions, athletic programs, social extravaganzas, "business" meetings, and question and answer sessions concerning the Catholic Church.

A membership drive is a major part of CYO Week activities. The new CYO headquarters is for the entire Terre Haute Deanery, consisting of six parishes in Terre Haute, and one parish each in West Terre Haute, Clinton, Spencer, Rock-

ville, Brazil, Greencastle, Seelyville, and St. Mary-of-the-Woods Village.

Youths interested in joining the CYO should do so through a parish chapter, although other arrangements are available if there is no parish CYO chapter.

Activities for the rest of the week include a program of movies tonight at 7:30 p.m. and ping-pong and pool tournaments on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, a hayride or an open house (depending upon the weather), will be the highlight.

The Liturgical Dedication of the building will be at 7 p.m. on Friday. An all-day open house Saturday and officer elections at 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon will conclude the week.

Julie Burns is the current president of the CYO.

Community Affairs File

ASSOC. (T.H.)

CYO Seeking Added Members

TS Sept 1, 1974

By WAYNE PERRY

Tribune Staff Writer

Young people working together, socializing, competing in sports, and developing leadership qualities are the emphasis of the Catholic Youth Organization, and CYO officials are dedicating the month of September to attracting more members to their programs.

Throughout the month, the CYO, directed by Father Mike Albright, will attempt to inform the public about their programs and to increase their membership.

"CYO is for high school students and teenagers," Father Mike emphasizes.

The CYO should be distinguished from the CYO Cadet Athletic Program for grade students. The cadet program is noted for its fall football program — however, the CYO emphasizes a wide variety of programs for older students.

"We believe the members of CYO come together to accomplish a different kind of an organization, developed to serve the social, athletic, cultural, and moral needs of today's youth based on the Christian principles of acceptance (youth of various ideals and faiths) and involvement," he comments.

He adds, "Opportunities to work together, socialize, compete in sports, develop leadership qualities through various programs and projects are the foundation of this organization."

He stresses that CYO is a flexible organization, bending with the needs and desires of the students.

"CYO is not all pre-planned," he comments, "the results spring from an active and concerned youth who work together . . ."

The CYO building is located at 1117 Wabash Ave. and is the center of activity for the

organization. The structure has been designated as "A Place for Youth."

Father Mike comments, "The September membership drive is concentrating on the CYO which attempts to serve any interested high school student or teenager. The concepts and philosophy and membership regulations may be obtained from the CYO office five nights a week from 7 until 10 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday nights from 7 until 11 p.m."

"Throughout the month of September, any young person, parents, or interested party may stop by the CYO Building to look at the facility and ask questions of the supervisor," he adds.

Schedules of activities and programs are also available at the CYO Building. The materials will also be available on Sept. 7 during the United Way parade and at the United Way display at the Hulman Civic University Center.

The CYO has recently been designated as United Way agency.

In brief, CYO activities include:

- Access to the CYO building and its facilities for meetings, dances, pool, ping pong, television, music, or just a place to meet friends. Supervisors are always present.

- Rap sessions, conducted on the first and third Thursday of each month. September rap sessions are open to non-CYO members.

- Opportunities to grow in leadership ability as a result of the structure of CYO, committees, and participation in state and national CYO meetings and conventions.

- Challenge '75 — a speaker-discussion situation on the fourth Sunday of each month.

- Intramural activities for all high school students.

- Community involvement —



CYO OFFICIALS LAUNCH MONTH-LONG MEMBERSHIP DRIVE—Discussing the September membership drive for the local Catholic Youth Organization are Father Mike Albright, CYO Deanery Director; Janice Inserra, CYO president; and William Haley, CYO board chairman. The organization, with offices at 1117 Wabash Ave., is welcoming all high school students and teenagers in the area to investigate their programs. House of Photography.

- such as the United Way Campaign, the Banks of the Wabash Festival, and the St. Jude Hospital Fund Drive.

- One act play presentations and performing competition.

- CYO membership is \$2 annually (for October to October dues). The membership card may be purchased any night of the week during the month-long membership drive.

Assisting Father Mike in CYO

activities are William Haley, board chairman, and Janice Inserra, youth president.

Haley summarizes the purpose of CYO: "One of our fundamental goals is to give students the opportunity to experience leadership roles. The students work together on projects and activities — these programs alone serve to help the student get along with others and grow."